

Citizen Comment and WDFW Reply

From: rosendo guerrero [<mailto:rosendo64@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 08:58 AM

To: Eberlein, Mark

Subject: Voights Creek Hatchery

Mark as an avid fisherman on both river systems affected by the hatchery, has FEMA been accepting public comments as of yet?

My opinion on hatchery's is that we are supplying an old system that is just dumping money into a sinking ship. I would suggest the State and Federal government look at populating our native Steelhead before Salmon. Current data shows that without clean water from surface water runoff affecting the prespawn mortality of salmon that our rivers are becoming polluted from the runoff.

regards

Rosendo Guerrero
Citizen

WDFW REPLY: From: Peoples, Marty D (DFW) [<mailto:Marty.Peoples@dfw.wa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 2:37 PM

To: Kerschke, William

Subject: RE: Voights Creek Hatchery

The Voights Creek Hatchery is a very important piece of an integrated fishery management plan and a coordinated hatchery program to support the recovery of natural spawning populations of both salmon and steelhead throughout the Puyallup Watershed. It is our goal to recover these native species while at the same time provide for meaningful harvest opportunities for treaty and non-treaty fishers alike. It is true that the Voights Creek hatchery currently is programmed to rear and release Chinook and Coho salmon, however both WDFW and the Puyallup Tribe have active hatchery programs in the Puyallup Drainage that rear and release steelhead throughout this important watershed. The recent guidance from an Independent Hatchery Scientific Review Group and the National Marine Fisheries Service implementing the Endangered Species Act has required hatchery rearing programs, practices and techniques to be modified to meet both recovery goals and future fishery opportunities.

Ample good clean cool water is essential for the long term sustainability of all our steelhead and salmon populations, and the State of Washington through the Salmon Recovery Board continues to select and allocate tens of millions of dollars each year directed at improving fish habitat throughout the state. The new Voights Creek Hatchery has been designed to ensure clean water is returned to the river, and includes the construction of a "state of the art" pollution abatement facility. Hopefully with these types of investments we can return the overall health of these valuable resources to healthy sustainable populations, while trying to achieve a delicate balance to those citizens who desire to harvest and utilize these species today.